

no one except Ms wife, who arrived on the 1st of November. "He expired on the 10th of the same month."¹

At this juncture Bernadotte returned to Hamburg. I asked him how I was to account for his conduct while he was with Davoust, who had left Nuremberg¹ to attack the Prussian army; and whether it was true that he had refused to march with that general, and afterwards to aid him when he attacked blue Prussians on the Weimar road. "The letters I received/* observed I, "state that you took no part in the battle of Auerstadt; that I did not believe, but I suppose you saw the bulletin which I received a little after the battle, and which stated that Bonaparte said at Nuremberg, in the presence of several officers, 'Were I to bring him before a court-martial he would be shot. I shall say nothing to him. about it, but I will take care he shall know what I think of his behavior. He has too keen a sense of honor not to be aware that he acted disgracefully/' — "I think him very likely/" rejoined Bernadotte, "to have made these observations. He hates me, because he knows I do not like him; but let him speak to me and he shall have his answer. If I am a Gascon, he is a greater one. I might have felt piqued at receiving something-orders from Davoust, but I did my duty." ²

* Charles William Ferdinand, Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttele, who had commanded the allies in their advance into France in 1806 and who died from wounds received at Auerstadt. He was the father of the Duke William Frederick, killed at Quatzenbrunn. For the mistimed but pathetic belief of the old dying Duke in the courtesy with which his States would be treated by the French, see *Beutnot*, tome i. p. 307: "I feel sure that there is a courier of the Emperor's on the road to know how I am."

² This is a mistake. Bernadotte did not go to Hamburg till much later (see *Ferrets* tome i. p. 9). The complaints of Bernadotte's conduct on the 4th of October, 1806, when he gave no assistance to Davoust in repulsing the main body of the Prussians at Auerstadt, are well known. Tomini (tome ii. p. 2590) says that Davoust proposed to Bernadotte to march with him, and he offered him the command of the two corps. Bernadotte refused, and marched away to Dornburg, when he was of no use. "It is obstinacy, difficult to explain, nearly compromised both Davoust and the success of the battle." See also Thiers (tome vii. p. 112), who attributes Bernadotte's conduct to a profound aversion for Davoust conceived on the most frivolous grounds. Bernadotte had frequently given orders of (unpleasant) to Napoleon in the two campaigns of 1805 and 1806. In the movement on Vienna Napoleon considered he showed want of activity and of zeal. Xnes' complaint that he had been made in good faith, for in a letter to Bernadotte's brother-in-law, Joseph, Napoleon suggests that health may have been the cause (Zu V. p. 322). Bernadotte was equally unfortunate in putting in his appearance too late at Eylau (see *Mémoires de Juvénat's Memoirs*, tome ii. p. 48), and also incurred the displeasure of Napoleon at Wagram (see later on)-